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## **CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY INITIATES PLANNING TO BUILD, OPERATE NORTH-SOUTH RAIL LINK FOR 21ST CENTURY**

(ANAHEIM, Calif. August 19, 1999) — The state High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) gave marching orders to its staff yesterday to begin drafting a detailed business plan that will add high- or very-high-speed rail routes to the California landscape by 2015.

In a workshop following its August 18 meeting at Anaheim City Hall, the HSRA spelled out essential plan elements to build and finance the proposed high-speed train system between San Diego and the Bay Area and Sacramento.

The Authority will host another "workshop" in Sacramento on Sept. 29, to check progress and encourage comprehensive understanding among staff and consultants, prior to the development of the draft business plan. The draft is due back to the Authority by its October 20 meeting.

"We are looking for a plan that offers the greatest vision and the best service for the people of California well into the next century," said Michael M. Tennenbaum Chairman of the California High-Speed Rail Authority. "We also want to provide a plan that offers the greatest flexibility so that when we are faced with the very daunting job of developing an EIR for more than 680 miles of California territory, we are well prepared with information and options."

At the meeting, the two reports were presented to the Authority. Public Financial Management, a financial and investment consulting firm, submitted a draft financial plan options, and staff presented an analysis of higher-speed conventional rail improvement opportunities.

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HSRA is a state agency established in 1997 to study alternatives for development of a statewide high-speed train system, draft a business plan for its operation, educate the public on its potential, and devise financing.

The Authority board includes Chairman Michael Tennenbaum of Malibu, Vice Chairman Edward Graveline of Fresno, Donna Andrews of Los Angeles, Dr. Ernest Bates of San Francisco, Jerry Epstein of Los Angeles, John Fowler of San Diego, Bill Leonard Sr. of San Bernardino, James Mills of Coronado and T.J. Stapleton of Petaluma.

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